

# THE Asylum

VOL. 37 NO. 1



SPRING 2019

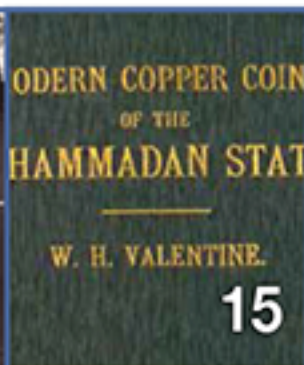
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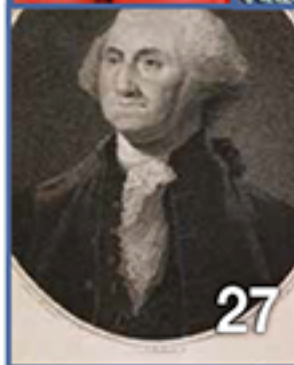
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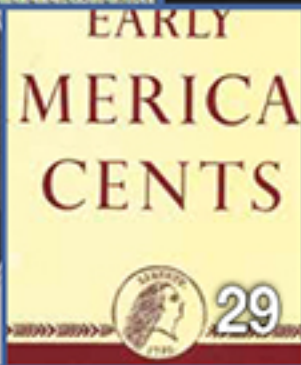
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*When we are  
collecting books,  
we are collecting  
happiness.*

Vincent Starrett  
1886-1974



# THE Asylum

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SPRING 2019

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG

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# Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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**NBS Membership/Subscriptions:** *The Asylum* is mailed to all NBS Members. Membership is \$40.00 inside the United States, \$60.00 outside the U.S., \$25 for digital-only and \$10 Youth Membership. New members receive one back issue plus all new issues upon publication. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Treasurer at the address below.

**Submissions:** *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

## **Sponsorship/Advertising rates**

See our full *Sponsorship Rates and Guidelines* at [coinbooks.org/asylum](http://coinbooks.org/asylum) or contact editor.

Full page	\$120	5.5 x 8 inches
Inside front, inside or outside back cover	\$125	5.5 x 8 inches
Half page	\$75	5.5 x 4 inches
Quarter page	\$40	2.75 x 4 inches

\*A 10% discount may be applied for a full-year commitment. A 10% discount is available for NBS members and community organizations.

## **Deadlines for Submissions and Advertising:**

Spring Issue (No. 1) February 1  
Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1

Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 17 (After ANA)  
Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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Tom Harrison  
NBS President

## Message from the President

Welcome to the first issue of *The Asylum* for 2019 that celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. This being an odd numbered year, it is time to call for nominations for officer and board positions in the upcoming NBS election. If you have an interest in serving please email Maria Fanning at [nbsasylum@gmail.com](mailto:nbsasylum@gmail.com) by May 1st so you may be included on the ballots to be mailed with the summer issue of *The Asylum*. Please also include a brief bio and photo to include with the nominations.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the NBS we are issuing a special summer edition of *The Asylum* to record your recollections of past NBS events such as live literature auctions, the invasion of Louisville or Pittsburgh, and any stories related to numismatic literature gatherings. We would enjoy hearing about weekend visits to fellow NBSers' libraries or an entertaining dinner rendezvous. Your remembrances of the fascinating personalities of our hobby are welcome whether they are a couple of paragraphs or several pages in length. Also, any photos you would be willing to share will be appreciated and greatly enhance this commemorative issue. As much as we enjoy reading about our numismatic forefathers, I believe current as well as future bibliophiles will be entertained by your stories that bring to light the events and personalities of the first forty years of the NBS in this time capsule. Think of it as passing your fond NBS memories forward. Thank you for your contributions that will record stories that might otherwise be forgotten.

With spring just around the corner, it is not too early to make plans for our annual gatherings at this year's ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont. We are looking forward to seeing many friends, old and new, at our Symposium, General Meeting and club table. Last year's benefit auction held at the General Meeting was a resounding success, not only in terms of the financial results, but also by the markedly increased number of generous donors and bidders. Again this year we are asking for donations for our benefit auction that will play a crucial role in the continued success of the NBS.

Even if you are unable to attend the convention, please consider this all-important opportunity to support your NBS. David Fanning has graciously offered to accept donated items and create a catalog for the auction. Your donations can be sent to Kolbe & Fanning, 141 W. Johnstown Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. The deadline for receiving donations is June 15, 2019.

A numismatic literature display is another way to promote our hobby and showcase your favorite title or author. This year's registration deadline is June 15th. This gives you ample time to create an educational exhibit at this year's premier numismatic event.

Finally, please know that as we embark on our 40th year your support and contributions to this remarkable organization are sincerely appreciated! Each article to *The Asylum*, donation to our benefit auction, or literature display at the ANA significantly enriches your NBS. May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery and most of all, enjoyment.







## Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society Invites Applications for Newman Grants

The Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNES) announced the creation of the Newman Grant program to financially assist numismatic authors and organizations pursuing original research in American numismatics. Newman Grants will be awarded annually with the first set of awards announced in May 2019.

EPNNES has previously supported the numismatic community through the creation of the Newman Numismatic Portal (NewmanPortal.org) at Washington University in St. Louis, and, prior to that, the Newman Money Museum. In addition, EPNNES has supported the American Numismatic Society (ANS) Graduate Seminar, and the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminar through a matching program in conjunction with ANA Young Numismatist (YN) annual auction. EPNNES also provided direct assistance to numerous numismatic clubs and societies in November 2017.

EPNNES now widens its numismatic support to the larger community and invites Newman Grant applications from the public. Authors, researchers, and numismatic organizations are encouraged to apply for amounts between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Applications promoting original research in American numismatics will be preferred. Awards may be applied toward any related expense including but not limited to photography, reproduction services, travel, or publication. EPNNES intends to make approximately half a dozen grants per year.

The Newman Grant program will be administered for EPNNES by the Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP). Applications may be found on the Newman Numismatic Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/archivedetail/530553> and should be submitted to [NNPCurator@wustl.edu](mailto:NNPCurator@wustl.edu). The application deadline is April 1, 2019, with the first set of Newman Grants to be announced on May 25, 2019, coincident with the late Eric P. Newman's birthday.

It is the hope of EPNNES that this program will continue the legacy of Eric P. Newman in a way that would reflect his high standards for numismatic research.

# The Coinage of San Serriffe

By Pete Smith

It is easy to write an article for *The Asylum*. Just pull something off your bookshelf, Google like crazy, and write about it. This article was inspired by a 2009 addition to my library.

## The Literature

This has the best of everything we look for in numismatic literature. It is the definitive work on the topic; a limited edition with fine printing and binding; a low mintage coinage; and a fascinating story. It has a long title, *The First Fine Silver Coinage of the Republic of San Serriffe: The Bird and Bull Press Commemorative 100 Coronas Including an Account of this Legendary Republic and its Connection with the Bull and Bird Press. With a description of similar rarities and special mention of Martin Coles Harmon, King of Lundy Island.* By Henry Morris. It was published in 1988.

The work includes two parts in a slipcase. The first item has text printed on French mouldmade Arches paper by the Bird and Bull Press. The second item is a folder with examples of the coinage.

Much of the work is devoted to discussion of “Unofficial Coins of the World” as described by Richard Kenney in *The Numismatist* from 1962 to 1964. Apparently the favorite of Morris was coinage produced for Lundy Island by Martin Coles Harmon.

The first edition was limited to 350 copies. This includes one silver commemorative coin in the folder. Also included was a bibliography of Bird and Bull Press publications over the past thirty years and has a certificate for 1000 shares of Bird and Bull stock.

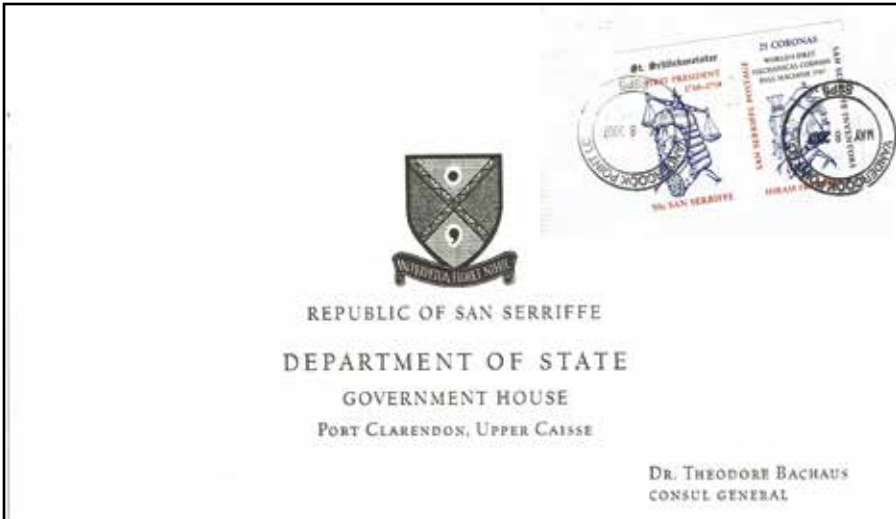
What is described as the numismatic edition included examples of the silver, aluminum and bronze coinage with a print run of 125. My recent acquisition has this three coins set.

## The Coinage

According to the book, the standard coin of San Serriffe is the Corona, and is divided into 100 ems. The currency is sound with high value on the international



Map of San Serriffe.



Stamp and letterhead of San Serriffe.

currency exchange recently equal to 4.3 Pounds Sterling.

Coins in the folder were issued to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of Bird and Bull Press. On the obverse is the Bird and Bull pressmark with a Latin legend that translates as “the remembrances of past labor is sweet.” On the reverse is a classical Athenian owl and legend “Republic of San Serriffe / 100 Coronas.” The accompanying folder identifies the designer as Rosemary Tottoroto, engraver as Kenneth D. Douglas, and project coordinator as Stella L. Blazier.

The edge numbered, one ounce silver proof piece was issued in an edition of 500. Only 105 pieces were produced in aluminum and antique bronze. An additional five presentation pieces were struck in .999 gold.

The booklet I received also has two pieces of currency in the denomination of 25 Coronas, Series of 1986. These were hand printed in black and blue with serial numbers in red.

## *The Republic*

Henry Morris learned of The Republic of San Serriffe when an English friend sent him a copy of an article from a British paper, *The Guardian*, dated April 1, 1977. Like many with a limited knowledge of geography, he was previously not familiar with the country.

San Serriffe is a semi-colonial archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Of interest to printers and booksellers is the fact that cities and other geographical features are named for typefaces and printing terms.

The Capital city of Bodoni is on the Island of Caissa Superiore (Upper Caisse). The second largest and southern island is logically called Caissa Inferiore (Lower Caisse). It was on this island at the port of Garamondo that coinage was struck at the Garamondo Mint.



The prevailing trade winds continue to erode beaches on the windward side of the island and deposit sands on the leeward side. This would have the cumulative effect of making the islands move to the east. A public works project, as funding permits, is to transport sand from the east coast back to the west.

The article in *The Guardian* included a map of the islands. Morris included a similar map with his book on the coinage. The more recent map includes the location of the Bird and Bull Industrial Park.

Morris established a satellite printing plant near Post Clarendon at the southeast corner of Caissa Superiore. Some of his books on local interests were printed here under the imprint of the San Serriffe Publishing Company.

## *The Bird and Bull Press*

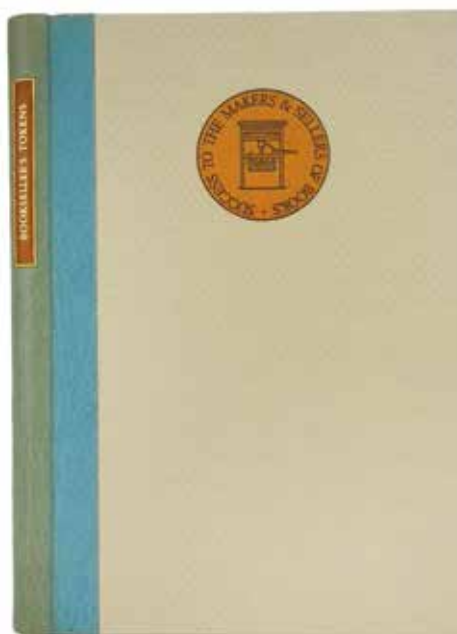
Collectors of numismatic literature may not be aware or care who prints or binds their books. With productions from the Bird and Bull Press, the printer represents high quality and added value.

Henry Morris had an interest in hand-made paper that led to creation of the Bird and Bull Press in 1958. This is a private press that produces limited editions on specialized topics including Morris' areas of interest in booksellers, papermakers and numismatics. This interest in paper extended to one book on the Japanese paper balloon bombs of WWII.

Their books appeal to collectors of rare books including modern limited editions. They use classic techniques such as letterpress printing with lead type. They also use imported mouldmade papers with hand binding. Some clients buy an example of everything they produce.

The Bird and Bull Press produced a volume devoted to booksellers, *Trade Tokens of British and American Booksellers and Bookmakers*. Eleven new tokens were produced and enclosed with the book including one for George Frederick Kolbe, co-founder of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Kolbe included the same token with the catalog of his 44<sup>th</sup> sale in 1990.

John W. Adams' book, *The Indian Peace Medals of George III or His Majesty's Sometimes Allies* was designed and printed by Henry Morris. The letterpress edition of 500 copies was bound by Campbell-Logan Bindery for distributor George Kolbe. This is an example of "QUALITY" (An advertising term used by Kolbe) with Adams, Kolbe, Morris and Campbell-Logan



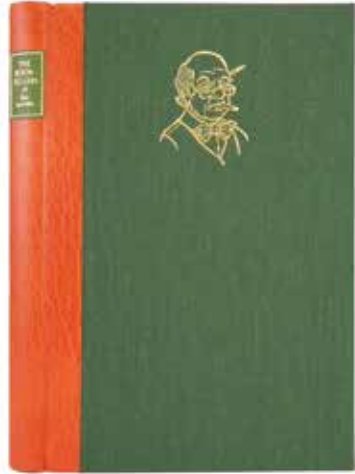
Bird and Bull Press's *Trade Tokens of British and American Booksellers and Bookmakers*

each representing the finest in their fields.

Adams chose The Bird and Bull Press for the letterpress version of his book, *Comitia Americana and Related Medals*. Just 60 copies were issued in this format. An offset version was published by Kolbe.

In 2007 The Bird and Bull Press combined extra plates from the Adams book with an article previously published in *The Asylum* to produce *The Magnum Opus of Joseph Florimond Loubat*. This is a leaf book, that is, one that includes plates from previous publications. Unlike similar books that require the destruction of originals, this utilized overprints. (No books were harmed in the production of this volume.) Production was limited to 150 copies. Again Adams, Kolbe, Morris, and Campbell-Logan combined with a minor author to produce this work.

Other titles published by Bird and Bull Press (through their subsidiary in San Serriffe) include the works of Dr. Theodore Bachus, *The World's Worst Marbled Papers* "Being a Collection of Ten Contemporary San Serriffean Marbled Papers Showing the Lowest Level of Technique, the Worst Combinations of Colors, and the Most Inferior Execution Known Since the Dawn of the Art of Marbling Collected by the Author During a Five Year Expedition to the Republic of San Serriffe" (1978); *The Private Presses of San Serriffe* (1980); and *The Booksellers of San Serriffe* (2001). The last, limited to 200 copies, included samples of San Serriffe commemorative stamps. For a couple of these limited editions, all copies are numbered '1'.



*The Booksellers of San Serriffe.*

Among the works of Bird and Bull Press were various bibliographies of prior company publications. These included samples and additional material. Apparently these bibliographies were among their more popular titles. The Bird and Bull Press ceased operations in 2013.

## *Henry Morris and Theodore Bachaus*

Morris served in the Pacific during World War II. One of his books is the story of chartering an airplane to get from California to New York at the end of the war. Just 35 copies were printed of *The Flight of the RB-1, Coast to Coast in 43 hours* (1980).

Morris studied papermaking and produced his first book to utilize his paper. He now says that if this volume was printed on standard paper it would have attracted no attention. Interest in his paper prompted him to continue.

He studied printing techniques and the printing industry. Through these interests he became fascinated with the connections of San Serriffe to the printing industry. Through San Serriffe, he issued shares of stock in 1977.

His interest in numismatics made Morris dream of producing his own coinage. At first this appeared to be impossible. With a cooperative relationship with the government of San Serriffe, this became possible for his commemorative coinage of 1988.

I received a letter from Morris in 2007 that is immediately a treasured piece of ephemera. The return address block shows “Republic of San Serriffe / Department of State / Government House / Port Clarendon, UC.” Inside his letterhead has a similar imprint with the name of “Dr. Theodore Bachaus / Consul General.”

On the back flap are two cancelled stamps for San Serriffe. One is a commemorative stamp that appears to be part of a series honoring San Serriffe inventors. This stamp features Hiram Fravartish, the inventor of the “world’s first mechanical codfish ball machine 1797.”

The original Theodore Bachaus was a pseudonym for A(rthur) W(isner) Rushmore (1883-1955). Perhaps his best known work was on *The Ceremonial Papers of America*. As a Boy Scout camper, we knew of this as “A. P. (All-Purpose) Paper.” Rushmore was the founder of Golden Hind Press, another private press.

Morris wrote an expose on “Theodore Bachaus – Unmasking a Literary Legend.” According to Morris the story was “rife with false leads, mistaken identity, and literary mystification.”

Morris and the second Bachaus share the same birth date in 1925. Otherwise I was unable to find biographical information on Bachaus.

## *The Philobiblon Club*

Philadelphia book lovers formed the Philobiblon Club about April 26, 1893. It was devoted to the appreciation of the printing arts and to the collecting of fine old, rare and valuable books. Their goals should resonate with members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society.

They once had a “permanent” meeting space and collection but in recent years have met at the Franklin Inn Club. Each year they host several speakers at their monthly meetings. Henry Morris spoke on October 12, 1999, on “Theodore Bachaus, D. S. C. A San-Serriffean Literary Legend.”

A history was published in 1973, *The Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia: The First Eighty Years, 1893-1973*. This was printed for the club by Bird & Bull Press.

## *Sans Serif*

Anyone familiar with printing is aware that a typeface either has serifs or does not. The serif is a relic from a time when letters were printed with quill pens. The more modern types without serifs are known as “sans serif” types.

Although sans serif type dates back two centuries, these fonts first became popular in the 1920s. Futura was developed in Germany in 1928 following Bauhaus ideology. Later Helvetica became even more popular. Sans serif type is often now used for headlines while body text retains the serif. Sans serif type is generally preferred on computer screens and web site designs. The simpler forms of letters are easier to read when translated into pixels.

Preferences for type may not just be an artistic consideration but political as well. The National Socialist administration in Germany identified sans serif type as decadent and banned its use.





Maurice Frankenhuis with grandson Aaron Oppenheim

# Raised as a Numismatist

by Aaron Oppenheim

Often when discussing our hobby, I'm asked, how did you become interested in numismatics? I imagine it's a popular question, since coin collecting isn't the most popular hobby. In my case, I can look back at my earliest years and my answer would probably not be that common. I was raised as a coin collector, taught the skills of handling coins, learning about numismatics and the general historical knowledge imparted to me by my grandfather. If it weren't already difficult to raise children, raising a youngster to take after your interest in such a hobby must be a challenge.

My grandfather, Maurice Frankenhuis, was in his own right a renowned collector and numismatist, with a focus on medals of the two World Wars. He compiled and published his *Catalogue of Medals, Medalets, and Plaques Relative to the World War 1914-1919*, which until today is the standard reference work for this genre. He assembled the most comprehensive collection, portions of which can be viewed at the British Museum, Kadman Numismatic Museum in Israel, and other museums. As I grew older, I understood that his focus on the real value of these items were its lessons for future generations. And that's the very reason he instilled and cultivated my interest in a unique way.

I recall in 1967 when he prepared a multi-case display for the Grand Central Coin Show in New York. In those days, coin exhibitions were very busy with visitors, and his exhibit was representative of his unique talents. Using props and banners which were mounted above his many display cases, it drew a lot of attention. My grandfather and I made sure to mail out invitations, mailing a photocopy of *Coin World's* article of its pre-show announcement. More importantly, he submit-



Terra sancta medal 1964.

Photos, courtesy of Israel Coins and Medals Corp.



Cardinal Spellman's tag for Holy Land Pilgrimage 1964 Medal.



AARON CLAUDE OPPENHEIM  
Numismatist  
66 Overlook Terrace  
New York, N.Y. 10040

August 25, 1967

John V. Lindsay  
Mayor of the City of New York,  
New York, 10007 N.Y.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am Ronnie Oppenheim and I'm having an Israeli coin collection, which my grandfather, gave to me. He also gave to me other coins and medals.

My grandfather has been a collector all his life and especially items of World War I and World War II. He has made many exhibitions in Europe before he came to America about 20 years ago.

In November we will have a Coin Convention in the Sheraton Hotel and we'll have a display there and mine will be called The Aaron Claude Oppenheim Collection. My grandfather showed me the COIN WORLD of February 8, 1967, which says the Mayor of Jerusalem gave you a gold coin during his visit. It is named TERRA SANCTA. The medal is struck in Israel on the occasion of the visit of Pope Paul VI.

I have not got this medal and I would like to borrow it from you and I will see and be very careful that it does not get lost. The convention will be on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will not be there on Saturday, but I will ask other people to watch it for me. And that it will not be touched. Also I will have it insured.

My grandfather made a medal called "A tribute to the 6 million", because the Germans killed 6 million of Jews in the last war. You have that medal because I saw the letter (thank you letter) of April 3, 1967 that you liked it very much.

I am now 8 years old and I herewith send you a Coin World in which I am named as a collector.

Think it over about the Terra Sancta medal and I will hear from you.

Sincerely Yours  
*Aaron Claude Oppenheim*  
(also called Ronnie)

Enclosed Coin World cutting.

P.S.  
You also received in July 1966 from the President of Israel, when he visited you, a gold medal, a copy of Jerusalem coin of 1831 years ago by Bar-Kokhba who led the struggle for freedom from the Roman Empire.  
Can you borrow this one as well? *Ronnie*

- Top to bottom:
- 1) Letter to Mayor Lindsay
  - 2) Response from the Office of Mayor Lindsay
  - 3) Letter to Cardinal Spellman

The City of New York  
Office of the Mayor  
New York, N.Y. 10007

August 30, 1967

MARTIN RONNIE OPPENHEIM  
66 Overlook Terrace  
New York, N.Y. 10040

Dear Ronnie:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date to Mayor Lindsay.

I am very sorry to inform you that the medals you refer to which you want to borrow for the Coin Convention to be held next November are the property of the City of New York and cannot be loaned by anyone. We will understand your position.

The Mayor has asked me to extend his best wishes for success in your very interesting hobby.

Sincerely,  
*[Signature]*  
AARON OPPENHEIM  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Mayor

AARON CLAUDE OPPENHEIM  
Numismatist  
66 Overlook Terrace  
New York, N.Y. 10040

September 7, 1967

His Eminence  
Cardinal Spellman  
New York City

Dear Cardinal Spellman:

I am Ronnie Oppenheim and I'm having an exhibition of an Israeli coin collection, which my grandfather gave to me. He also gave me other coins and medals. He told me that you have a very big collection of coins and medals and that you gave them away for a good cause, which was very nice of you.

My grandfather has been a collector all his life, especially during World War I and World War II. These collections he has given to a museum in Israel. He had a medal made this year and it is called "A Tribute to the 6 Million" because the Germans killed 6 million Jews in the last war. He will surely like to give you a medal, if you would like to have one.

In November there will be a Coin Convention in the Sheraton Hotel in New York and we will have a display there and mine will be called the Aaron Claude Oppenheim Collection.

My grandfather showed me a newspaper of August 4, 1966. It says that you visited the President of Israel at the Plaza Hotel, and that he was very honored that you came to see him. He gave you a present which contains a medal which commemorates Pope Paul's visit to Israel. It is called TERRA SANCTA which means Holy Land. On the other side of the medal it says: "Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself." I have a picture of this medal, and it is beautiful. It is gold.

I do not have this medal, and I would like to borrow it from you for the exhibition. I will be very careful to see that it does not get lost. The convention will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will not be there on Saturday, but I will ask other people to watch it. The coins cannot be touched because they are all put in glass cases. Also I will have it insured, as I do with my own pieces.

I am 8 years old. I send you a cutting from the "Coin World" in which it is said that I am a collector.

Please, Cardinal Spellman, think it over about the TERRA SANCTA Medal, and my grandfather takes care of everything for me. He might pick up the medal if you will do me a favor and I may come along with him.

Sincerely yours,  
*Aaron Claude Oppenheim*

ted the exhibit under my name, as if to give full credit to me, at eight years of age. But the real attention-getter was an additional display of Israeli numismatics, including a rare item that nobody would likely ever have the opportunity to view.

In early 1964, Pope Paul VI made the first papal visit to Israel since its statehood. The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation produced many coins and medals throughout their existence, and they chose to commemorate the pontiff's visit titled the Terra Sancta medal in gold, silver and bronze, available for purchase to their subscribers and the public. The mintage records indicate, however, an additional four medals specially struck in gold measuring 59 mm in diameter. How my grandfather was able to ascertain the true recipients of this rarity before the internet age is beyond me. The Israelmint.com website today documents these four "Not For Sale" issues were "awarded by Israeli President Shazar to Pope Paul VI and three accompanying Cardinals during the Pope's visit to Israel 5.1.1964." Parenthetically, the year of issue displayed on Israelmint.com is erroneously recorded as 1963, since the visit was in January 1964.

But my grandfather did his own research of the recipients and the first attempt was to contact then-Mayor of New York, John Lindsay. My grandfather helped me compose a letter of request to borrow this gold medal to enable visitors of the upcoming big coin show to view it. My letter promises to take safety and insurance precautions. Let me assure you that my grandfather didn't actually compose the letter (which may be obvious from the text); I have several drafts which we always produced by typewriter and carbon copy paper when sending correspondence. Mr. Lindsay's office responded that the medal is "the property of the City of New York, and cannot be borrowed by anyone."

But my grandfather wasn't one to give up. Our next attempt would be Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. If this attempt failed, we may not have had much luck in achieving our goal. This letter of request was somewhat modified, and the response was a positive one. Arrangements were made to pick up the gold medal, which was then included in my display at the Grand Central Coin Show. Mission accomplished! In the days following the show, we contacted the Cardinal's residence to



Coin World announcement with special mention of Aaron Oppenheim collection exhibit

COSN WORLD, Wednesday, December 6, 1967

Page Forty

# Photos Tell Grand Central Story



Here exhibitors who received the Grand Central Coin Convention plaques of recognition for their special efforts were: Seated, from left, George Bell, Boris Woby, Frank Pavonis, Vincent



Everyone receives recognition at the Grand Central Convention: A group of exhibitors and their awards from the Long Island Coin Club

Almon, Michael Treadl back row, from left, Jay Unger, Emmett McDonald, Isidore Hirsman, Dr. Tibor Vanc, William T. Anson Jr., Hugh Stone.



Maxine Frankenhelm congratulates his eight-year-old grandson, Aaron C. Oppenheimer, on two scores: One, for the plaque presented to him by the Long Island Coin Club for young Maxine's Grand Central Convention exhibit of seven cases of the famous Frankenhelm medallion art collection, and two, for Maxine's enthusiasm for numismatics at such an early age. The young collector wrote a letter to Cardinal Francis Spellman asking to borrow the Terra Sancta medal commemorating Pope Paul's visit to Israel for the Grand Central exhibit. His Eminence promptly complied with the request and as a result hundreds of collectors were privileged to see the piece at the Grand Central show.



Aaron C. Oppenheimer, Carol Gladly, Milton Cohen; standing from left, Irwin Stoll, Michael Grasso, George Barth, Edward Marlow, Emil

Coin World report after Grand Central Coin Show.

arrange for its return. We learned that Cardinal Spellman had just died, and instead were greeted by sisters who formally took the medal back.

This story demonstrates the formula for raising a numismatist. The encouragement, advice, publicity, tenacity, and love that my grandfather invested in me was the bedrock of my life's interest and passion for numismatics. I encourage readers to try to emulate these methods in bringing youngsters into our hobby today. And the pleasure it will give you is inestimable.



# Valentine's Day

By David Pickup

What makes a good book good? Reliability? Popularity? Plot? Well, not plot in a numismatic work, but reliability and just plain usefulness, yes. This time I am looking at the books written by W.H. Valentine. I have the first three of the following list which are the best known of his works. They stand out as affordable, useful books and they were printed from his notes and drawings. The first one has been reprinted twice.

(1911), *Modern Copper Coins of the Muhammadan States* London: Spink & Son Ltd. Reprinted in 1969 and 1977 by Spink.

(1914), *The Copper Coins of India* two parts: Spink & Son Ltd

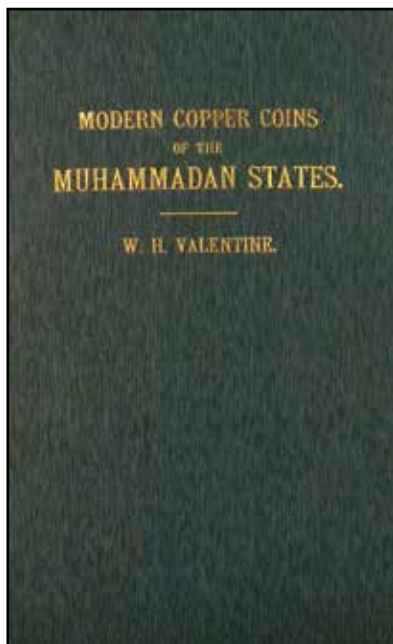
(1921) *Sassanian Coins*

I have never seen the last book so I cannot comment on that. The others are ones I often refer to. Valentine was not initially a professional numismatist or academic, but had a career in transport. Sadly, ill health curtailed his writing but he then set up a successful coin business. In the preface to the 1911 book, Valentine explains how the first book came to be written. He could not identify the small coin which is illustrated at the front of the book, so he visited the British Museum and spoke with numismatic colleagues, but to no avail. So, of course, he then wrote the book!

According to an article by Forrer he told him that he was given a gold Indian coin by his uncle and was intrigued by the script and learned Arabic. He started to collect Indian Islamic and Persian coins and took considerable trouble not only to classify the coins he collected but to share his knowledge with others. I was beginning to like this man more!

Having decided to write the book, he spent three years on the project, getting considerable help from the British Museum. He mentions Mr. Daniel J. Howorth, author of *Colonial Coins and Tokens* and Howland Wood of the American Numismatic Society. His own collection numbered between 12,000 to 15,000 copper, mainly modern coins. That is some collecting! I respect him more, but where did he get so many?

The title of the book is slightly misleading because it uses the word "modern" which is likely to put many collectors off. In fact, it covers several centuries of coins. In the review in *The Numismatic Chronicle* the reviewer (John Allen) made the same



point. The book seemed to be popular. When part one of *The Copper Coins of India* was published in 1914, John Allen again welcomed the book as would collectors of Indian coins, "who now form quite a numerous body." I can sense a slight hesitation in that comment.

The book was planned to be one of a series and Part II came out in 1920. 1928 saw the publication of his book on Sassanian coins. It was not well reviewed in *The Numismatic Chronicle* Fifth Series Volume VIII, page 148 by our friend John Allen, who thought it was not up to the standard of other books.

In the preface to the reprint Howard Linecar somewhat sniffily says that according to "legend" Valentine "was a man of quite humble occupation." Linecar had, "heard that he drove a London tram (streetcar) and having acquired some Indian coins, found them of interest." Tram driver or not, they are useful, clear and comprehensive books. According to his obituary, Valentine loyally attended meetings of the Royal Numismatic Society. It only refers to two of his books: *Sassanian Coins* and one of the books on Indian coins. It stated that, "Collectors of the series are not numerous" and says he won little notice of his work.

An interview which had appeared in *Evening News* 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1925 was reprinted and explained he had started working-life as a draper and worked for 35 years as a carpenter for tramways. He was proud of having corresponded with the king of Italy about a set of rare unidentified coins. One of his books won a gold medal from the Indian Numismatic Society.

When interviewed at his home in Lambeth, London, he was bent over a table bearing trays of Indian coins. His house was filled with books, including the bathroom. He had cabinets which contained thousands of coins. The article confirmed he had planned four books on Indian coins, but writer's cramp had prevented him publishing more. His third book was only half finished. Valentine loved to talk of his coins and explained he used to prowl London at night searching barrows for them. I am not sure what that means unless he knew market traders who kept the "bad coins" they were given. On Saturday afternoons he would go to the British Museum and study books about the history of coins and he learned Sanskrit and Arabic. He became fascinated by Indian coins. The Keeper of the Coin Department suggested he should write a book and offered to be the first subscriber with half a sovereign.

Valentine said, "There's nothing in the world more fascinating than old coins. ...Even now I am happy among my thousands of coins." He sold his unique collection of Indian coins to the American Numismatic Society. It seems surprising that a Londoner would sell to the ANS, especially since he had connections with the British Museum. Perhaps he offered it to the British Museum and they did not have the funds to pay for it.

The document held by the ANS which details the donation says they were purchased by ANS curator Howland Wood, but they were actually purchased and donated by ANS president and benefactor Edward Newell. There was a lot of friendly correspondence between Wood and Valentine, including some discussion of their families and/or wives meeting each other, so there was a personal connection there, it seems. A total of 8,230 coins were acquired by the ANS from Valentine. He died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1927 at 71, leaving a widow and children. He had been a coin, token



and numismatic literature dealer and Spink's said they had had good relationship with him and would miss his frequent visits.

In 1969, the modern coins book was republished and it led to an article in *The Numismatic Circular* by Howard Linecar. Someone at the printing firm that did the reprint in 1970s remembered Valentine and his lists of coins for sale. In another strange coincidence Keith Howes of the British Museum was giving a private tour to two young ladies. One remarked that her great-grandfather (Valentine) used to collect coins. He wrote books on them.

His daughter-in-law was able to give more biographical details. He was a coachbuilder for the tram company, and in addition to numismatics, he was a musician and sang in local clubs. He also built a chamber organ and made his own coin cabinets. She said he contributed to a catalogue of coins in the Calcutta Museum and that is what led to the medal. He brought home treasure by the "sack-full" after tours around London. A further note by Linecar based on information from Major Pridmore refers to three unpublished works: *Tin and Copper Coins of the East Indian Archipelago* (1905), *Gold and Silver Coins of Java, Sumatra etc.* (1918), and *The Temple Coins of Java* (1918).

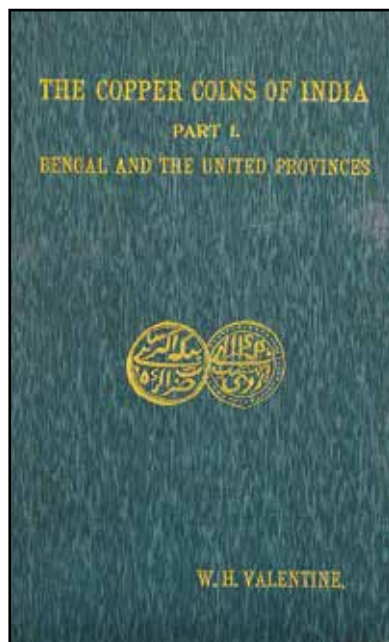
Linecar suggested there might be more. Pridmore (the writer on colonial coins) said these (unpublished) books are not of any great numismatic value. A yet further note quotes a Russell Rulau editor of *World Coins* to say there were a total of fourteen different books, many of which were in manuscript form.

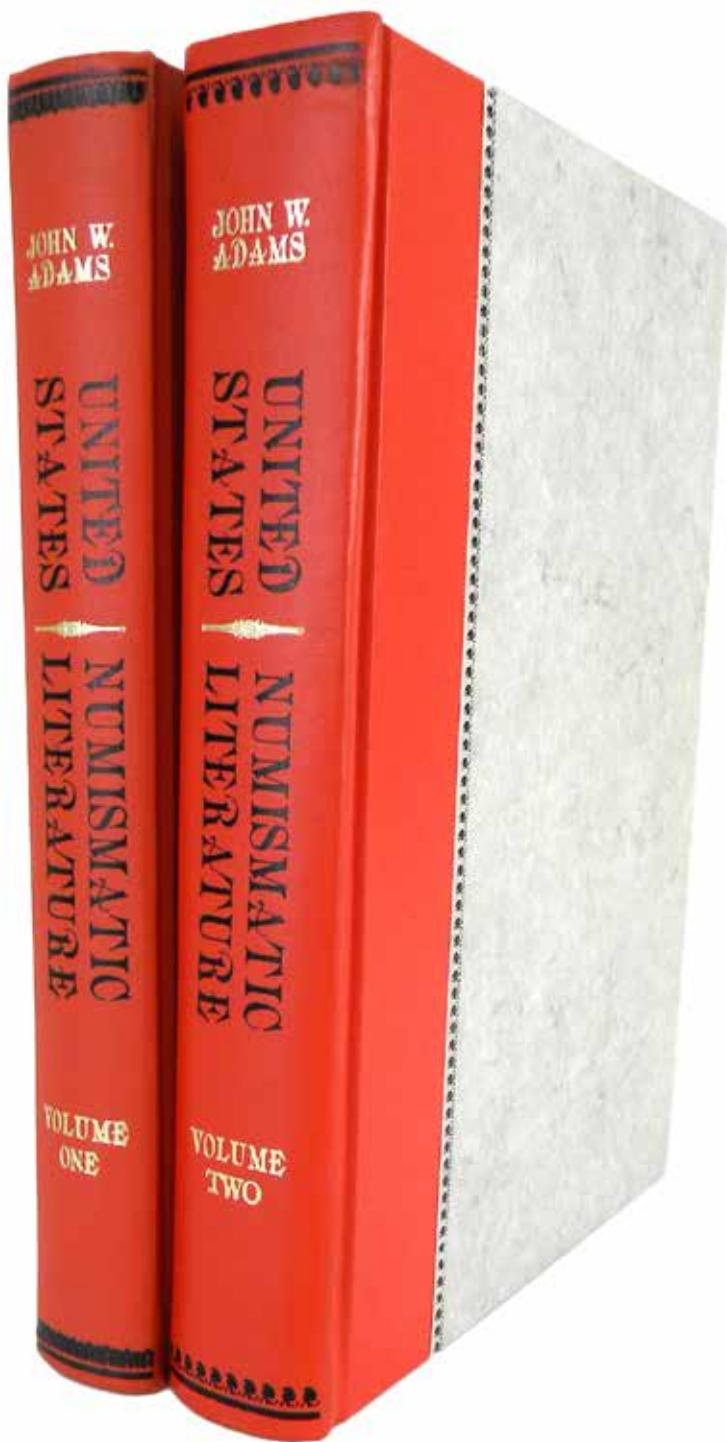
It seems so sad that he did not publish more books given the quality of the ones we have. I have a small collection of Indian coins, a few of which I have identified. More have been identified by experts. There are strong links between Britain and the sub-continent which perhaps accounts in part for the fascination for this series. Indian coins present challenges but are often good value for the money and there are bargains available. Nowadays, collectors now have the internet and some really good websites. There are also forums and, of course, Richard Plant's book on reading Arabic coins.

#### Sources and acknowledgments

Hill, David, Francis D. Campbell Librarian, American Numismatic Society

Shepherd, Brad, Hon. Librarian RNS/BNS



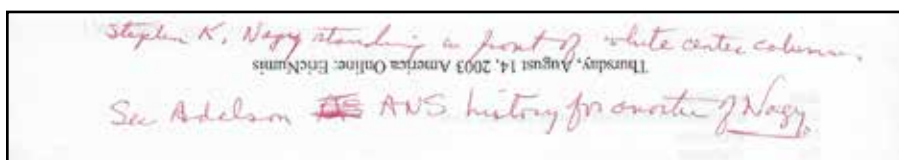


# United States Numismatic Literature and a Surprising Find

By Cole Hendrickson

As someone who enjoys building my numismatic library, I appreciate the opportunity to add a book that I have been seeking to my shelves. While I have other collecting interests in addition to numismatic books, my personal library is one of my most precious holdings. In the recent sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection Part XI, I was fortunate to acquire Volume One and Volume Two of John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*. Not only is it an indispensable resource for collectors of numismatic literature, it is also collectible in its own right. Only 500 copies were made and each is personally numbered. The set that I purchased is copy 373 for Volume One and copy 375 for Volume Two. Each volume has the original red cloth and boards with gilt and black decorations and lettering. The volumes are also printed in red and black throughout with speckled page edges. In addition, the volumes were printed on acid free paper and were bound by hand with each volume also being signed by the author. All of this contributes to making the book a comprehensive and eye appealing addition to a bibliophile's bookshelves.

When I received the books, I was surprised to find a small slip of white paper inside Volume Two. On the slip is a hand-written note that states "Stephen K. Nagy standing in front of white center column. See Adelson ANS history for overture of Nagy." It seems plausible that Eric P. Newman wrote this note due to his past ownership of the book in which the slip was found and the content of the note. After researching it a bit, I noticed that in Volume Two, opposite from page 69, there is a group picture from the 1909 ANA convention party. In this image, a man who appears to be coin dealer Stephen K. Nagy is standing in front of the middle white column. Nagy was involved in many suspect numismatic transactions ranging from 1913 nickels to fake territorial gold pieces. After Nagy's death in 1958, pieces from his



estate appeared in the 1958 ANA auction that was conducted by Abe Kosoff. Newman attempted to get the questionable pieces transferred to the Smithsonian. Throughout his life, Eric P. Newman devoted much of his time to revealing the truth about fake and controversial numismatic items. In particular, he worked to uncover information about John J. Ford Jr. and his involvement with the Franklin Hoard. Based off of what I have found, it is possible that the handwritten note is likely connected to Newman's research into the fake gold pieces.

With respect to the second part of the handwritten note, Howard L. Adelson wrote a book to commemorate the centennial of the American Numismatic Society. Appropriately titled, *The American Numismatic Society, 1858-1958*, the book discusses the history of the ANS. However, after accessing a copy of the book through the Newman Numismatic Portal, I was unable to find a reference to Nagy.

The two-volume set of John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature* is a very beneficial resource for collectors of numismatic literature and is also a great addition to the shelves of a bibliophile. I am very pleased with my acquisition and the handwritten note is a great bonus.



<p><b>STEPHEN ALBUM RARE COINS</b></p>  <p><b>stevealbum.com</b></p>	<p><i>Connect with your fellow bibliomaniacs!</i></p>  <p>INSTAGRAM numismaticbibliomania</p>  <p>FACEBOOK Numismatic-Bibliomania-Society</p>
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# Intaglio Printing & Wiping Paper

By Bob Bednar

I had always been fond of an 18th century poem about paper and it goes like this:

Rags make paper  
Paper makes money  
Money makes banks  
Bankers make loans  
Loans make beggars  
Beggars make rags...

I started my paper career five years after graduation from the University of Scranton. At first selling packaging paper, towels, toilet tissue and later including fine printing papers to printers.

One day I came across a beautiful brick building with a fence surrounding it. At the chain link fence door was a doorbell-like device and a camera. Curious I pushed the button and heard the buzzer and a lady's voice asking what I wanted. I asked who occupied the building as there was no sign. Surely, it was a government building. The voice said, "This is the United States Banknote Company." I replied that I sold paper and packaging and would like to speak with a buyer. Within minutes the door unclicked and I walked through to meet the buyer. After listening to my pitch he agreed to show me around and introduced me to Intaglio printing and engraving. There was a printing press that had an engraved plate attached to a cylinder. When set in motion the plate was inked, excess ink wiped off, then hit the paper at a high degree of pressure and the document was printed. You may have seen this if you've seen money printed at the Bureau of Engraving & Printing in Washington.

He especially noted the wiping paper, saying that while it was a crinkled up brown creped paper, it did its job wiping ink from the plate that printed USBN printed stock certificates, foreign money, traveler checks, passports and other documents of value. He said he had only one source for this wiping paper and would welcome any substitute papers I could find.

It would take me more than six months searching paper mills for this strong crepe paper. In the meantime, the buyer kept giving me orders of packaging in order to continue my interest. One day he asked if I had any children. His dog had pups and he offered to give me one. So, at dinner that night, my kids overwhelmingly urged me to accept the pup. I arranged to pick up the puppy a few days later and brought him home to my eager children. Barbara, my lovely wife, had purchased some puppy chow and was opening the bag to feed the puppy who was aptly named Buttons. While kids



Hungarian banknote made with intaglio printing.  
Photo by Petar Milošević



and dog were playing, I noticed that the dogfood bag was stitched on the top of the bag and the thread was sewn on to a little piece of paper that looked like the wiping paper used at the Bank Note Company.

In the office early the next day I eagerly called the dog food company and found that Chase Bag Company in Chagrin Falls, Ohio indeed made not only the bag but the creped wiping paper for the bag. I spoke with the mill superintendent who never heard of wiping paper but said he'd be interested in seeing what I had. The Bank Note Company gave me a trial order and the Chase Bag wiping paper was mine to sell.

Within several months, security printers worldwide called to get a piece of the wiping paper. Besides offering intaglio printers another source for the "die wipe paper," my paper was less expensive, caused less wear and tear on the printing plates, and wiped the printing plate cleaner. For several years, even the BEP used my die wipe paper in the printing of US currency.



## Happy 40th, NBS!

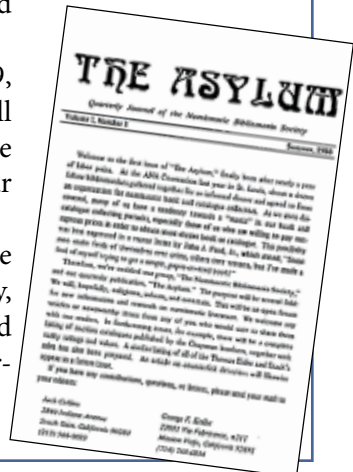
In 2019, the Numismatic Bibliomania Society will be turning 40! To celebrate, we are compiling a special anniversary edition of *The Asylum* where members share their stories from its inception through the years.

Please send your remembrances about live literature sales, the invasion of Louisville or Pittsburgh (among others), all of the interesting personalities our hobby attracts, and any stories involving numismatic literature and the NBS.

Photographs are especially wanted and needed!

Our deadline for submissions is April 1, 2019, but please start the wheels turning now. Send all submissions to [nbsasylum@gmail.com](mailto:nbsasylum@gmail.com) and give us a heads-up so we can reserve space for your story.

We hope you will enthusiastically embrace this project that will not only be enjoyed today, but will record numismatic literature events and personalities for future bibliophiles that otherwise may be lost.



# “The Coin Collector”

By Ray Williams

There's nothing scholarly to share with my NBS friends, just an interesting picture I stumbled upon while browsing on the internet. What did we do before the internet? The picture was painted in approximately 1655 by German artist Hendrick Gerritsz Pot (1580-1657). It is oil on wood and resides at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

This picture speaks volumes to me. The gentleman's hair and brow show wisdom over time. The long beard shows patience. In the time period of the painting, collecting coins was not for the common

man, so this collector must have been well-to-do. This thought is also reinforced by the quality of his clothing.

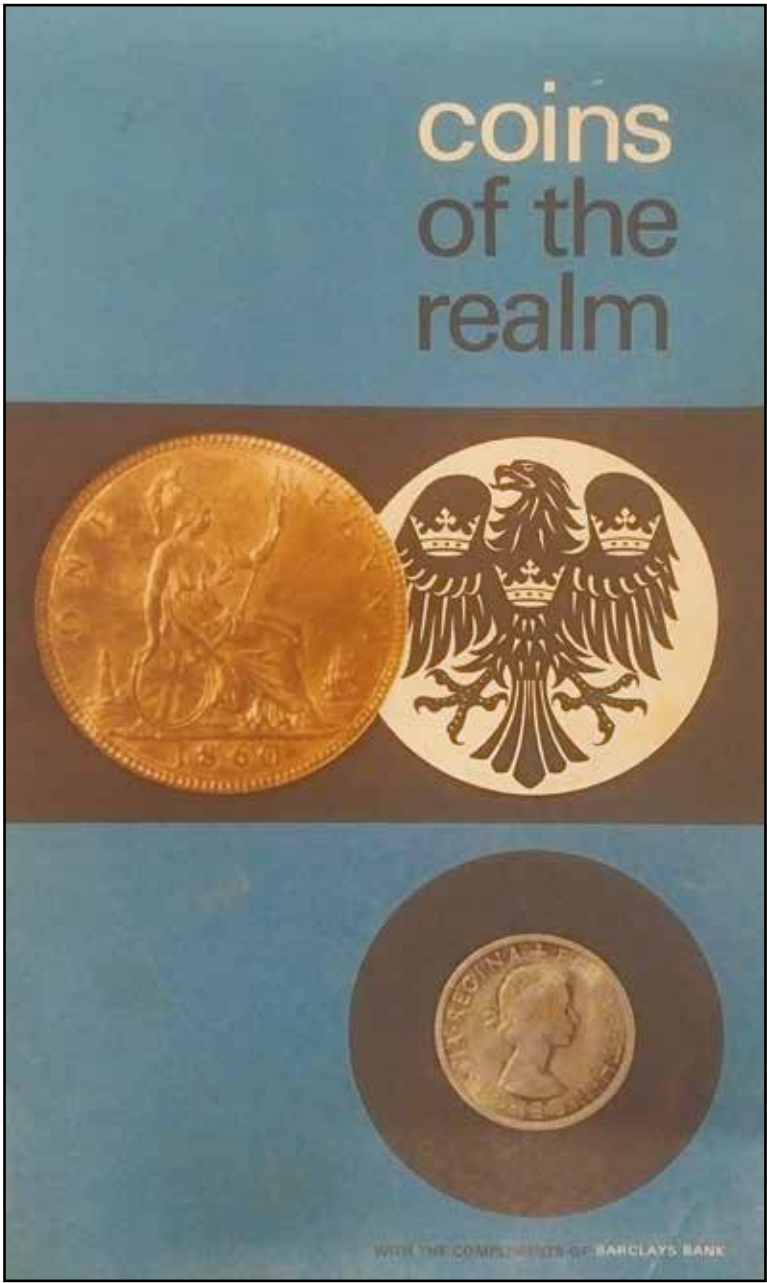
The man is a numismatist—he owns a book with coins plated!!! In 1655!!! The book is well-used and you can see pages that are book marked along the top edge. He is annotating this work with a quill pen – another sign that he's not a casual collector.

But to my astonishment, he does not know how to properly hold a coin! I'm assuming the coins on the table are not part of his collection based on how poorly they are spread on the table. Maybe they are the day's receipts for his business, and he's just looking for a date he needs. He did take the time to place a tablecloth to protect the coins.

In 1655, I wonder if an NE shilling found its way into his collection... From the size of the coins, I suspect he collected crown-sized coins.

If I thought Diane would permit it, I'd print this picture and hang it up on the wall. I will enjoy it by sharing it with y'all. Study the picture and see if you don't also share something with this man of 360 years ago.





# My Dad, His Bank and How to Start Collecting Coins

By David Pickup

I was amused to see a recent article on the British money system in pre-decimal days. The piece explained that before 1971 there were twelve pennies to the shilling and twenty shillings made a pound. It told the reader what half a crown and a florin were, a shilling was sometimes called a bob and sixpence was a tanner. I have read many books recently that have similar guides to “old money.” The article said the British money system was complicated.

Well, to anyone over a certain age, pounds, shillings and pence were not complicated at all—no more than that there are twelve inches in a foot, three feet in a yard and I forget how many yards were in a mile. You learned these things at home or at school.

One Friday evening in the 1960s, when I was about eight years old, my dad came home and gave me a booklet he had picked up from his bank. He knew then I was interested in coins. The booklet was entitled *Coins of the Realm* by C.R. Josset. It was an advertising leaflet produced by one of the main high street banks. When opened flat it was about A3 size folded to make two three-page leaflets (twelve sides in all). It is not dated but refers to the 1965 Maundy ceremony so it is probably 1966. No mention of decimalisation at all. The first decimal coins came in 1968.

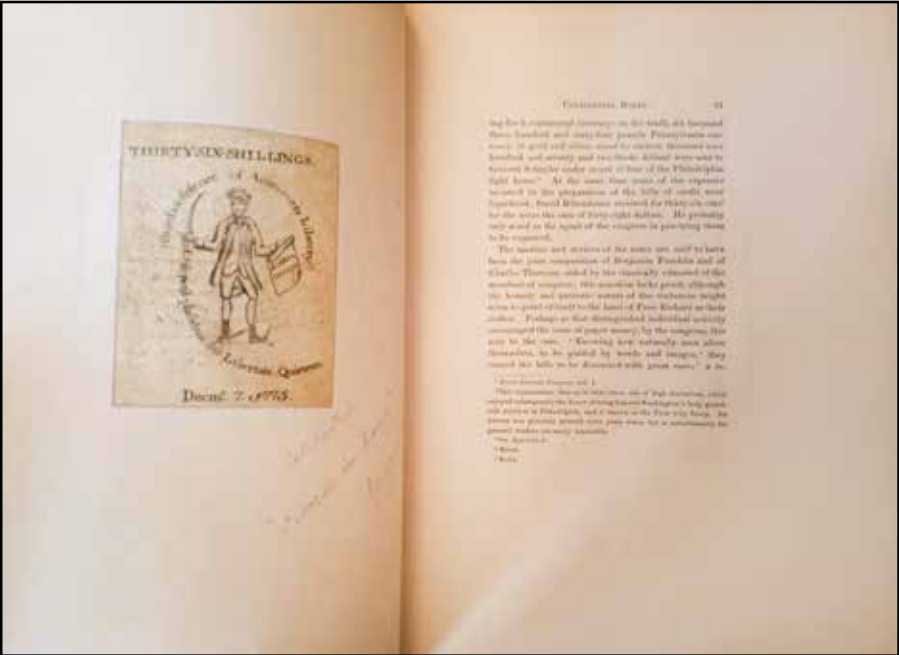
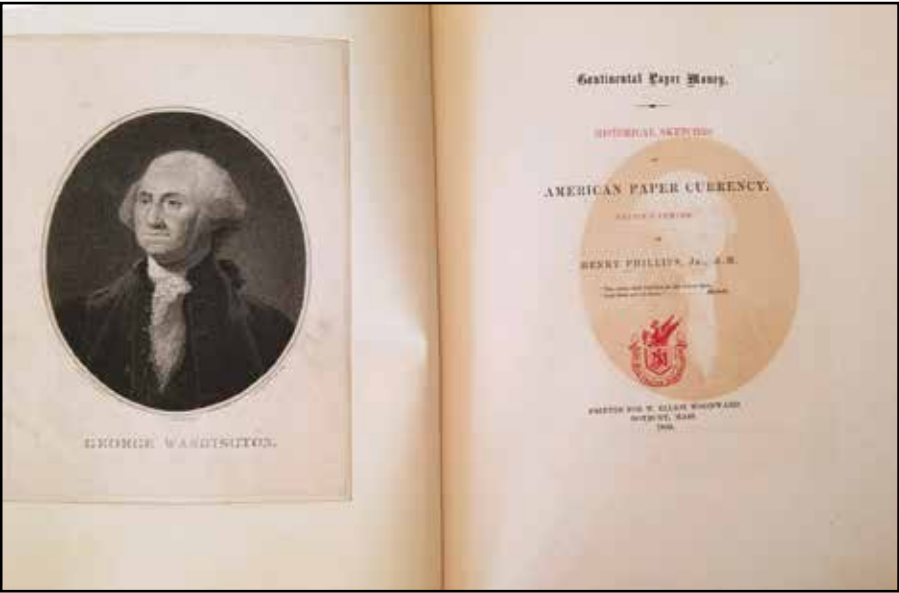
It illustrates the different denominations, including Maundy money. Details of the silver content of coins are provided, and there is a table of rarities. The booklet mentions gold coins and warns it is illegal for the public to own gold coins unless as collectors' items. It is all illustrated with splendid pictures of the George III crown, Victorian florin and bronze coins. Silver threepenny pieces are mentioned as being detested by bus conductors and clergymen—I had not heard that anywhere else.

I have found that C.R. Jossett wrote at least one other book on coins called *Money in Great Britain and Ireland: History of the Coins and Notes of the British Isles*. Perhaps the booklet was produced not only as advertising, but also to teach the bank staff about coins so they could recognise older coins which were still legal tender. In those days in the 1960s you quite often came across Victorian pennies, halfpennies and even silver coins in your change. Sadly, my copy fell to pieces years ago, but I did manage to buy another on Ebay for a few pounds.

Why don't banks produce similar leaflets today? Here in Britain they could list commemorative 50-pence coins, the coins you sometimes find in your change from the Channel Islands, which are the same size as UK coins, and perhaps something on the Euro, which again is seen occasionally in loose change.

This booklet was a delight and a great aid to a young collector fascinated by his new hobby.







# A Casual Discussion at the ANS

*A follow up to An Afternoon at Princeton University*

By Ray Williams

In the last issue of *The Asylum* (Vol. 36, No. 4), I wrote about an afternoon I spent at Princeton University with Dr. Alan Stahl, viewing a copy of *Historical Sketches of the Paper Currency of the American Colonies* (1865) by Henry Phillips. This copy was special in that it was presented by the author to an individual in 1890, with a note about the volumes. It was also interleaved with pages that had carefully-made cutouts where actual colonial bills were glued and could be viewed on both sides.

At the 2018 annual business meeting at the American Numismatic Society, I was recounting the events of that afternoon to a friend. Dan Hamelberg was there listening. As I progressed in my story, I could see Dan starting to smile. He waited until I was done with my story before giving me some interesting information.

He told me that he also owned the two volume reference by Phillips and his were also interleaved with pages where real colonial bills were glued so as to see both sides! His copy was autographed by the author, but no other text was written. Dan told me of his source—a well-known dealer of colonial numismatics and a good friend.

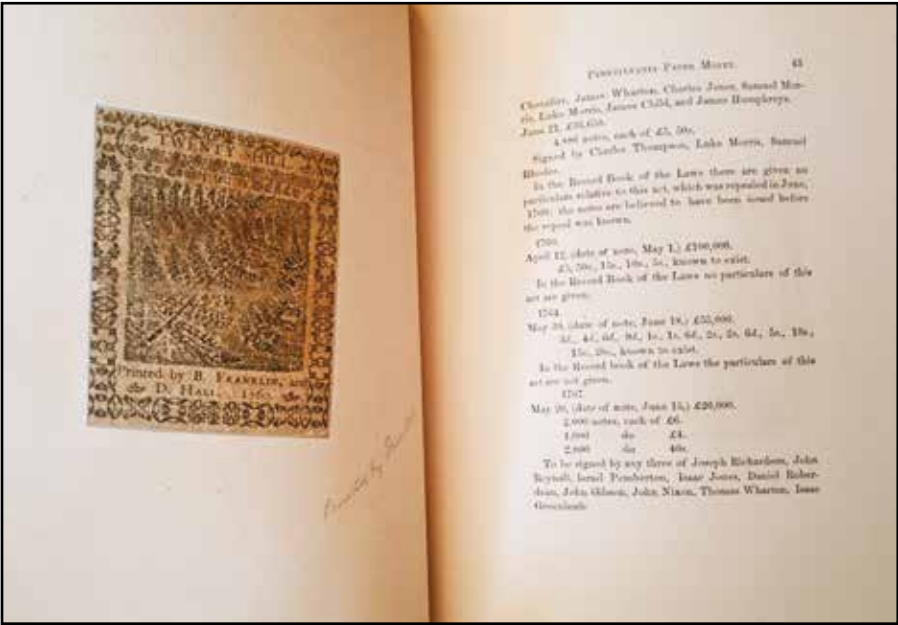
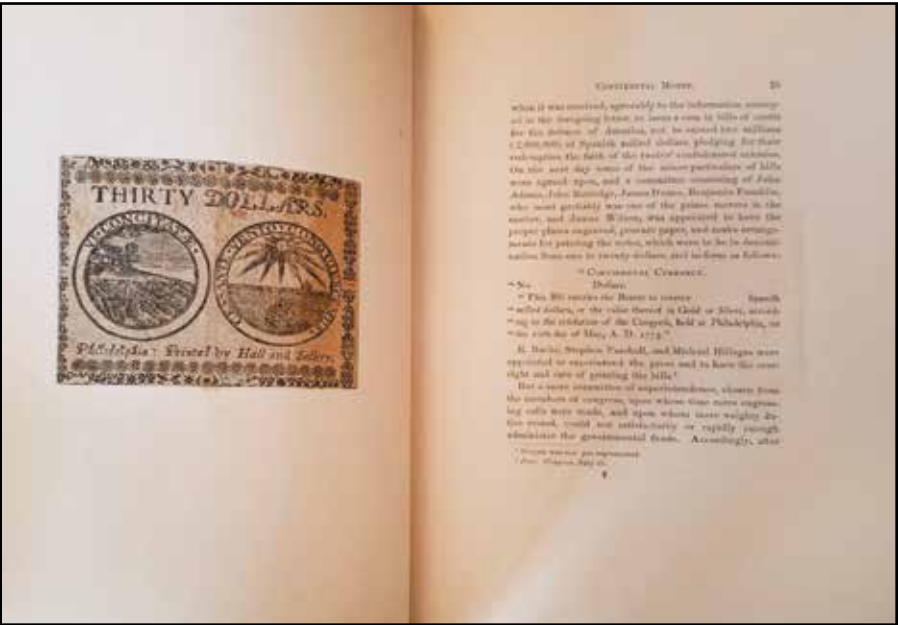
What a surprise this was! I asked Dan if he would be so kind as to take a few images and send them to me. He did so soon after. Dan had to send them to my wife's phone (I still have a flip phone) and she sent them to my email. These are what accompany this article.

It is my hope that someday Dan will have need to visit the Princeton area, and can visit Alan with his copy, so a comparison can be made. If such a meeting occurs, I hope to get an invite. Questions arise now that a second copy exists with bills similarly mounted... Is the quality of the bills the same in both copies? Are they mounted in



the same manner? Are the bindings the same? Are the covers the same? Are there more like these?

I welcome any thoughts the readers may have on the topic. Please email me at [njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net).



# The Sheriff and the Switcher: An Afternote

By Joel J. Orosz

In the Winter 2018 issue of *The Asylum* (Vol. 36 No. 4), I wrote one of my occasional ASSOCIATIONS columns, entitled “Del Bland’s William H. Sheldon-Inscribed Copy of *Early American Cents*: Before the Sheriff Nabbed the Switcher,” recounting a brief summary of how Bland proved that Sheldon had switched high-grade large cents for lower-graded ones out of the collection of the American Numismatic Society. Shortly after publication, Q. David Bowers sent me an e-mail dated November 20, 2018 that placed this matter into a broader numismatic museum context. His experiences demonstrate that, during the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the ANS, far from being careless, was operating very much within the mainstream of numismatic museum practice.

Dave began by pointing out that Dr. Sheldon was by no means the only one who was granted unsupervised access to the ANS collection:

In the 1950s I and others were allowed to take drawers of coins into separate rooms and examine them. I was a member at the time, and perhaps this courtesy was extended to all members. I don’t think I had to sign anything. I recall examining in detail copper coins of 1785 to 1788 and the U.S. patterns.

Thinly-staffed numismatic museums with large collections were hard-pressed to assign staffers to “mind” every researcher, especially those whose research consumed a number of days. Therefore, they trusted members and scholars on the honor system. Dr. Sheldon was not the only member who succumbed to temptation; Dave recalls, during the 1960s, being offered an 1868 pattern large cent and other coins that he recognized as part of the ANS collection. He returned them to the ANS by mail. It is important to remember, however, that for every member like Sheldon who violated the honor system, there were hundreds who scrupulously followed it.

In his forthcoming autobiography, which I have been privileged to review, Dave also recalled that unsupervised examination by scholars was the rule, not the exception to the rule, at other museums with numismatic collections. In fact, he eventually began to ask to be supervised during his visits, for the sensible reason that, should losses be detected at some future date, he could not be accused of having been the perpetrator. Such caution was warranted. Many of these institutions suffered thefts, including The Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh and Yale University.

Added to the threat posed by outsiders, museums are always in peril from the inside job, especially with collections as portable and easy to conceal as coins (Greenfield Village, in Dearborn Michigan, has never lost one of their steam locomotives by theft, whether from outside or inside). Just a few years ago, the American Numismatic Association was victimized by one of their museum employees, who made off with several coins, including the ANA’s 1792 half disme.

While sharing these broader considerations, Dave hastened to state that “Dr. Sheldon’s absconding cannot be excused.” This is absolutely correct. It is also important, however, to understand the context of the times, and to know that Dr. Sheldon’s unsupervised privileges at ANS were the same as were extended to many other ANS members; that the ANS was in the mainstream of museum practice at the time when these privileges were extended; and that ANS was not the only museum to suffer losses as a result of such policies. “And now,” as the late newscaster Paul Harvey was wont to say, “you know the rest of the story.”

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Q. David Bowers and John M. Kleeberg, both of whom reviewed this article prior to publication, corrected errors, and made many helpful suggestions.



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# Lauer's *Musterkarte* 28: Within a Rare Catalog, an Even Rarer One

By David D. Gladfelter

A folio catalog of medals struck by the Nürnberg firm of L. Chr. Lauer, published circa 1900 and acquired in 1989, has proved to contain the firm's rare 1890 first folio which has now been restored to its original condition (Figure 1).

The original set of 35 photo-engraved plates printed by Fritz Schumann for the first folio, "mit Text" (probably a price list), is listed in the February 1890 issue of the bibliographic periodical *Numismatisches Literatur-Blatt* published by Max Bahrfeldt. He states that this set of plates may be had for 8.75 marks, with individual plates available at 25 pfennigs each. They depict 315 medals commemorating persons and events of the past 300 years. In the January 1891 issue, Bahrfeldt lists an

additional 17 plates, numbered 36-52, together with a folio to house them and an updated price list, as being available for an additional 4.75 marks. These additional plates include private medals of reigning families and politicians, sporting medals, castles and public buildings, and scenes and personages of Nürnberg similar to those used on the firm's later set of streetcar tokens issued in 1921. From these listings in the numismatic press, it appears that the Lauer firm was marketing its catalog to collectors, not merely producing it for its own use.

The catalog in its various editions over the years is titled "Musterkarte 28" (meaning sample or specimen list #28). The circa 1900 catalog contains 179 plates depicting



Figure 1: Cover of first folio of L. Chr. Lauer's *Musterkarte* 28.



# L. Chr. Lauer, Nürnberg

Münz-Anstalt, Kleinweidenmühle Nr. 12.

Musterkarte

28.

## Denkmünzen

Kupfer bronzirt.

Nummer	Bezeichnung	Stück	Preis	Nummer	Bezeichnung	Stück	Preis
<b>Tafel 1.</b>				27	Agria-Pavona Scherzgerüstung 1904	40	1.50
1	Nürnberger Stadt-Deutschnote 1902	60	1.15	28	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 90. Geburtstag 1902	50	—,70
2	Nürnberg, Metall-Lösungsbilanz 1905	50	2.50	29	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 90. Geburtstag 1902	24	—,40
3	"	30	—,70	30	Wannsch, Rede im Reichstag 1900	30	—,50
4	König Ernst II. v. Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha	50	—	31	"	24	—,40
5	König Ernst II. (Jubiläumsmünze)	18	—	32	Wannsch, 100. Dienstjahr und 20. Geburts- tag 1900	40	1.20
<b>Tafel 2.</b>				33	Wannsch, 100. Dienstjahr und 20. Geburts- tag 1900	24	—,40
6	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	24	—,40	34	Wannsch, Rede im Reichstag 1900	18	—,50
7	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	30	1.—	<b>Tafel 5.</b>			
8	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	27	—,50	35	Wannsch, 20. Geburtstag 1900	30	—,70
9	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	18	—,50	36	Wannsch, Rede im Reichstag 1900	40	1.20
10	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	33	1.25	37	"	50	2.50
11	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	50	2.50	38	"	30	1.—
12	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 90. Geburtstag 1902	24	—,50	39	Nürnberg, Bräutigamsmünze 1904	40	1.20
13	"	27	—,50	40	Nürnberg, Verkehrsport-Bauspaltung 1905	40	—
14	"	33	—,85	41	Nürnberg-Güter Eisenbahn, 100. Jubiläum 1855—1905	40	—
15	"	24	—,40	<b>Tafel 6.</b>			
<b>Tafel 3.</b>				42	Nürnberg, Wagner, Festspiele	27	—,75
16	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	27	—,50	43	Nürnberg, St. Leonhard, 100. Jubiläum 1900	40	1.50
17	"	30	—,70	44	Schlacht bei Wöhrd 1900	40	1.20
18	"	30	—,70	45	"	40	1.20
19	"	50	2.50	46	Prinz Friedrich Karl, 100. Geburtstag 1902	30	1.20
20	Schönheitsmünze	18	—,40	47	Schlachtstage-Deutschnote 1901	40	1.20
21	"	40	1.20	48	Nürnberg, Wagner und Festspielhaus	50	2.50
22	"	33	—,85	49	"	27	—,75
23	Friedrichsberg, 100. Jahr der Gründung der Stadt 1907	30	—,85	<b>Tafel 7.</b>			
24	Wannsch, Preis-Lösungsbilanz	24	—	50	Münze	30	1.—
<b>Tafel 4.</b>				51	"	30	1.25
25	Nürnberg, Schatzkarte 1902	40	—	52	Kaiser, 100. Geburtstag 1902	30	—,70
26	Kaiser Wilhelm I., 100. Jahr der Chron- befreiung 1901—1900	24	—,40	53	Münze	27	—,75
				54	"	18	—,50
				55	Münze, 100. Dienstjahr und 20. Geburts- tag 1900	50	2.50
				56	Vier Kaiser (Klippe)	24	—,70

Figure 2: Price list accompanying Lauer's 1890 first folio.

1,660 medals having dates as late as 1900. A version issued circa 1894 has 81 plates depicting 772 medals. A version issued circa 1911 has 192 plates depicting 1,783 medals and is in the American Numismatic Society library. I have not seen Lauer catalogs with numbers other than 28.

The early first folio plates 1 through 52 included in the 1900 catalog are printed on slightly larger, somewhat thicker paper than that used for later plates – 25 cm x 32.5 cm, compared to 24.5 cm x 32 cm. Also included is the 1890 price list (Figure 2) for the 525 medals shown on these plates, as well as the front and back covers of the original folio. A master bookbinder located in Pittsburgh has made a new folio for

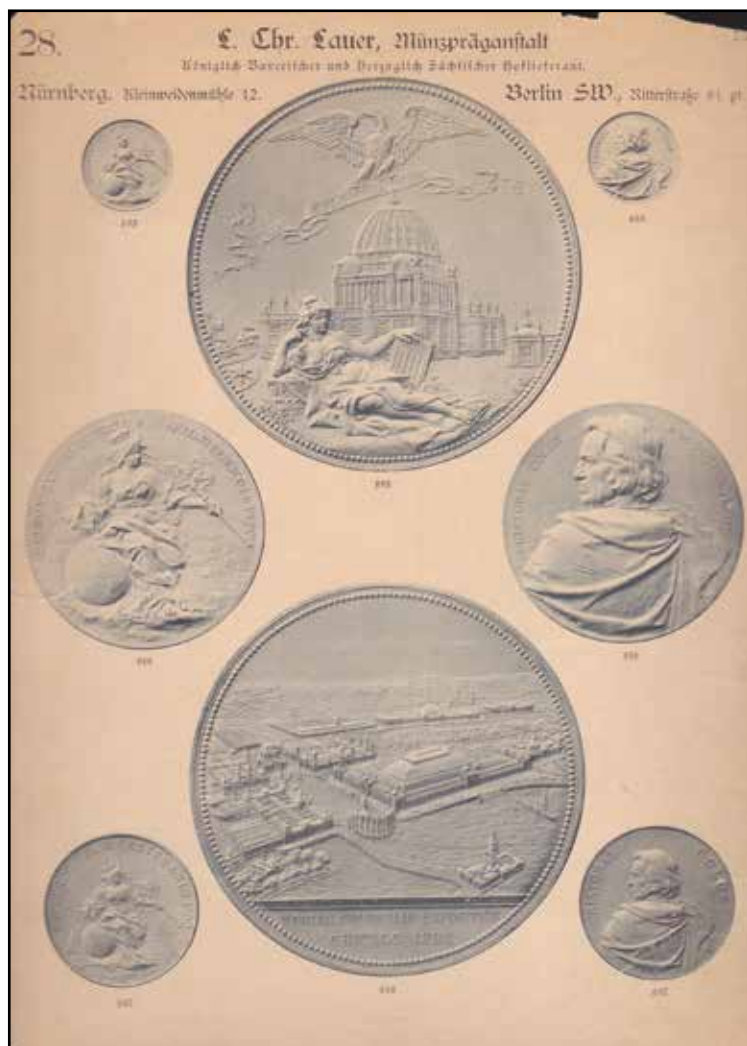


Figure 3: Plate 73 showing four medals struck by Lauer for the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.

this early catalog portion, using the original front cover, so that the plates from the early catalog and their price list are now housed as they would have been when first issued. This early set of plates and price list is not unique, but the folio itself may be. I have recently seen a bound set and list without the folio for sale online.

The Lauer firm had agents in cities in other countries, including London. In New York its agent was Reymond & Gottlob, located at 335 Broadway, at the corner of Worth St., whose ink stamp appears on an 1894 version. My catalog may have belonged to this agent, or another in the United States, because plate 73, depicting four medals of the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893, shows heavy wear (Figure 3). This agent doubtless represented the Lauer firm continuously from 1890 and merely added new groups of plates to the catalog as they came out. The Columbian medals depicted are Eglit 338, the 115 mm view of the exhibition building with reclining allegory of Liberty on the obverse and the fair grounds at the Lake Michigan shore on

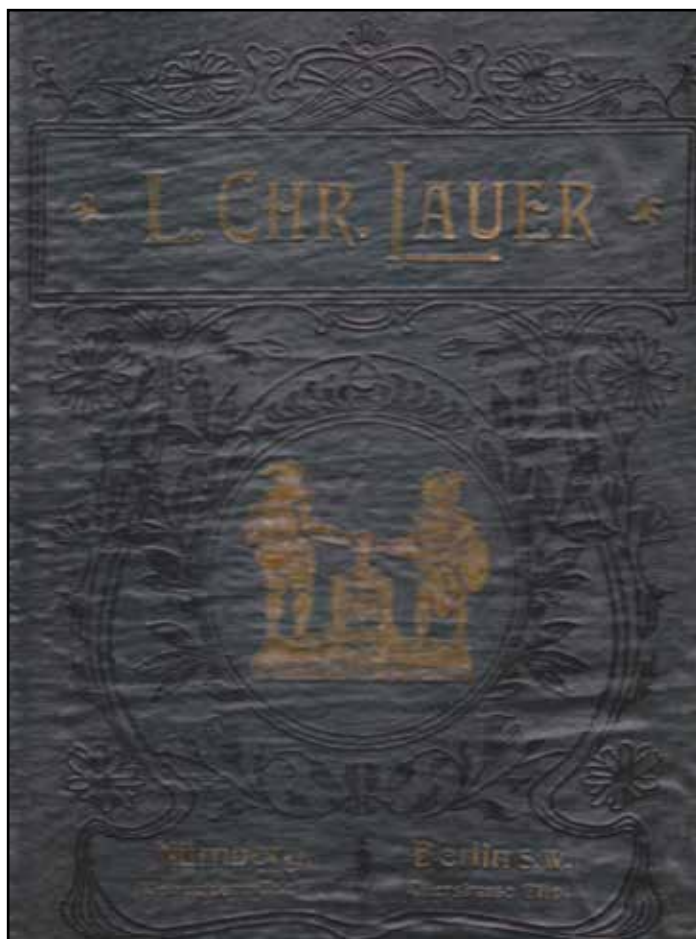


Figure 4: Cover of Lauer's c.1900 edition of *Musterkarte 28*.

the reverse; and Eglit 100, 223 and 224, the "Spanish Medal," with a dramatic rear-view portrait of Columbus on the obverse and an allegory of Spain on the reverse, in 70 mm, 45 mm and 27 mm sizes, respectively.

Other medals of interest depicted include the 1887 Victoria Jubilee medals on plate 14, plaquettes of German composers and writers on plates 146, 147 and 166-170, the memorial medal of Frederick the Great on plate 10, a portrait medal of Bismarck on plate 160, several portraits of Kaisers Wilhelm I, Frederick III and Wilhelm II on plates 2, 3, 17 and 19, and a whimsical medal to the winner of the "pork sausage derby," shown riding on a large hog, on plate 145.

By 1900, the Lauer firm had opened a second office in Berlin. Both addresses are shown on the cover of its 1900 folio (Figure 4), as well as on the individual plates from that later period. Its quaint familiar logo of elves turning a screw press is also shown. In fact, the Lauer firm was anything but quaint, having more than 100 employees in 1888, according to Leonard Forrer (*Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, VII:314).



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